

May 6, 2011

Dr. Suzanne Shipley
President
Shepherd University
114 Ikenberry Hall
Shepherdstown, WV 25443

Dear Dr. Shipley:

At its April 17-19, 2011 meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, the Unit Accreditation Board of the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) considered the continuing accreditation of the Professional Education Unit at Shepherd University. I am pleased to inform you of the Unit Accreditation Board's decision to continue the accreditation of the Professional Education Unit at Shepherd University at the initial teacher preparation level and grant accreditation at the advanced preparation level. This accreditation decision indicates that the unit and its programs meet rigorous standards set forth by the professional education community. A certificate that acknowledges the unit's accomplishment is enclosed with the copy of this letter that has been sent to the head of your professional education unit.

Special congratulations are in order because the Unit Accreditation Board has cited no areas for improvement relative to any of the standards. Strengths noted in the Board of Examiners report have not been reiterated in this report but are certainly considered part of the institution's accreditation visit record. You may use the information provided in the Board of Examiners report at your discretion.

The next NCATE visit is scheduled for **Fall 2017**. In partnership states, the actual date of the visit must be determined jointly by the state and NCATE. In addition, your institution will be required to complete the NCATE annual report each year during the accreditation period. You are required to report specifically on progress toward correcting areas for improvement cited in the action report. During the accreditation period, you will be expected to report evaluations and changes in relation to the six standards.

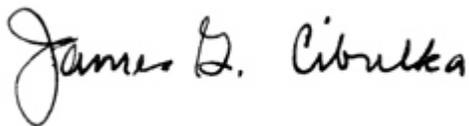
The recent meeting of NCATE's Unit Accreditation Board culminates several years of preparation and deliberation on the part of both the institution seeking accreditation and NCATE. Beginning with the institutional self-study and ending with the deliberations of the Unit Accreditation Board, a great deal of thought and effort went into the accreditation process. NCATE places great faith in its Board of Examiners members and the Unit Accreditation Board, and we want you to know that your unit was examined carefully throughout each stage of the accreditation process. Moreover, we have been most pleased with the cooperation received from the faculty, staff, and administration at your institution. Please contact us for further explanation of the findings of the Board or assistance in determining any future courses of action.

Enclosed is a copy of NCATE's Policies on Dissemination of Information, which describe the terms and dates by which your current accreditation action becomes a matter of public record. This document also indicates organizations that will be notified of accreditation action. If your state has a partnership agreement with NCATE, the state agency with program approval authority has access to these documents in NCATE's Accreditation Information Management System (AIMS).

To celebrate your accreditation, I encourage you to use the online press packet on NCATE's website. From the homepage, click on "Accreditation," then "After the Visit," then "Press Packet" under the subhead "Celebrating Accreditation." The packet includes a sample press release announcing a school of education's accreditation status to the media, as well as samples of announcements that can be sent to P-12 schools, foundations, businesses, policymakers, and other stakeholders in your area. Other strategies are also included for garnering media attention throughout the year. In addition, because the education unit is professionally accredited, we encourage you to use the NCATE logo on print materials such as brochures and catalogs, as well as on your unit's website. The logo can be found at the link just above "Press Packet" under the subhead "Celebrating Accreditation" as noted above. The logo is a distinctive mark that demonstrates that you have met demanding national professional standards for educator preparation.

Congratulations again on this accomplishment. Should you have any questions regarding NCATE's action or the items reported herein, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James G. Cibulka". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and 'C'.

James G. Cibulka
President

Enclosures

cc: Dr. Douglas F. Kennard, Professional Education Unit
Dr. Dorothy Hively, Professional Education Unit
Dr. Ronald B. Childress, Marshall University
Dr. Kathy Butler, Higher Education Policy Commission
Mr. Robert Hagerman, West Virginia Department of Education
Board of Examiners Team